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09/702,493	10/31/2000	Peter W. Estelle	NOR-937	9829

37172	7590	08/01/2007
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EXAMINER	
ROST, ANDREW J	

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**BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES**

Application Number: 09/702,493
Filing Date: October 31, 2000
Appellant(s): ESTELLE, PETER W.

MAILED
AUG 01 2007
GROUP 3700

C. Richard Eby
For Appellant

EXAMINER'S ANSWER

This is in response to the appeal brief filed 12/16/2003 appealing from the Office action mailed 7/16/2003.

(1) Real Party in Interest

A statement identifying by name the real party in interest is contained in the brief.

(2) Related Appeals and Interferences

The examiner is not aware of any related appeals, interferences, or judicial proceedings which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

(3) Status of Claims

The statement of the status of claims contained in the brief is correct.

(4) Status of Amendments After Final

The appellant's statement of the status of amendments after final rejection contained in the brief is correct.

(5) Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

The summary of claimed subject matter contained in the brief is correct.

(6) Grounds of Rejection to be Reviewed on Appeal

The appellant's statement of the grounds of rejection to be reviewed on appeal is correct.

(7) Claims Appendix

The copy of the appealed claims contained in the Appendix to the brief is correct.

(8) Evidence Relied Upon

5,737,172	OHTSUKA	4-1998
5,812,355	NOJIMA	9-1998

(9) Grounds of Rejection

The following ground(s) of rejection are applicable to the appealed claims:

Claims 1-4, 16, 19, and 21-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nojima (US Patent Number 5,812,355) in view of Ohtsuka (US Patent Number 5,737,172).

Nojima discloses the fluid dispenser for dispensing a fluid onto a substrate with a solenoid-actuated dispensing valve, power supply, and a driver circuit with initial peak and holding currents (along with the associated methods), but fails to disclose the details of the driver circuit initial peak current having a duration determined as an inverse function of the output voltage of the power supply. Ohtsuka discloses a similar driver circuit with initial peak and holding currents with the pulse width for a voltage value decreasing in inverse proportion to the power supply voltage. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have used the concept of having the duration of the initial peak current vary in inverse proportion to the power supply as taught in the driver circuit of Ohtsuka with the fluid dispenser of Nojima so that the input to the coil can be maintained at a constant level, irrespective of the voltage value as taught by Ohtsuka (see column 4, lines 54-59).

(10) Response to Argument

Regarding claims 1-4, 16, 19, and 21-23 as being obvious over Nojima in view of Ohtsuka

There appears to be no disagreement that Nojima discloses each and every feature recited in the independent claims except for the duration of the initial peak

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current varying as a function of the output voltage of the power supply. There also appears to be no disagreement with the motivation to combine Nojima with the teachings of Ohtsuka. Appellant argues the teaching of Ohtsuka and states that Ohtsuka teaches the duty cycles of the pulses vary inversely with the magnitude of the applied voltage. Ohtsuka teaches, "a pulse width for a voltage value becomes smaller in inverse proportion to the voltage value" at col. 16, lines 36-38. As seen in Figure 6(e), the waveform of the pulse width is varied with respect to time (waveform section g is longer than waveform section h with respect to time). Therefore, the pulse width varies with respect to time and Ohtsuka discloses the duration of the initial peak current is varied as a function of the output voltage.

(11) Related Proceeding(s) Appendix

No decision rendered by a court or the Board is identified by the examiner in the Related Appeals and Interferences section of this examiner's answer.

For the above reasons, it is believed that the rejections should be sustained.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Rost

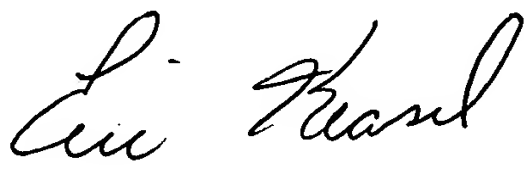


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